

NSC BRIEFING

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SOVIET COUNTERMOVES TO NATO CONFERENCE

- I. On Saturday USSR launched countermeasures to NATO meeting with
 - A. Speeches by Khrushchev and Gromyko before Supreme Soviet, and
 - B. A foreign policy "degree" by Supreme Soviet.
- II. Khrushchev and Gromyko repeated Soviet formulas for reducing international tension (mostly as outlined in Bulganin letters to NATO members). These are:
 - A. Effective 1 January self-imposed ban by the nuclear powers on further testing and on use of nuclear weapons;
 - B. A non-aggression pact between NATO and the Warsaw Pact,
 - C. A treaty of friendship between the US and the USSR,
 - D. The halting of "war propaganda",
 - E. A "nuclear free zone" in Germany, Czechoslovakia, and Poland,
 - F. Non-interference in internal affairs of Middle Eastern states.
- III. Neither Gromyko nor Khrushchev categorically rejected the NATO proposal for foreign ministers' disarmament conference.
 - A. Gromyko, however, stated that the USSR is not willing to discuss disarmament with NATO powers on basis of the recent UN resolution which endorsed the western position.
 - B. Gromyko urged calling special session of UNGA or international conference on disarmament.
 - C. Both called for a new "Summit conference" of capitalist and communist states.
 - D. Khrushchev urged that ~~prop~~ to a summit meeting US and USSR conduct bilateral negotiations.

IV. Indication that Moscow will soon announce unilateral armed forces cut.

- A. The Supreme Soviet "instructed" government to "consider the question of a further reduction" but "to maintain" Soviet military power "at a proper level."
- B. Called on US, Britain and France also to make cuts.
- C. Soviet aim is to contrast USSR's "peaceful posture" with American moves to strengthen NATO's military posture, and at same time put pressure on West to make arms cuts while pointing up Soviet ability to maintain its military strength with purportedly reduced forces.

V. Current Soviet objectives:

- A. To show that "balance of forces" has shifted toward Bloc and that US power no longer a deterrent.
- B. To induce West to accept status quo, particularly in Central Europe.